

Comment Summary from the March 4, 2004 Community Workshop for The Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project

Laurel Ave Median

- People want a place to sit and drink coffee.
- Looking as much for a garden as for an urban design.
- Like the idea of the design being noticeable from cars too.
- Would like materials or patterns of rounded stone or mosaics
- Maybe a blue color that moves throughout
- Consider building a pergola for at least part of the median which would have vines growing over it. This fits in with historic market designs.
- Use solar panels to power the area's lighting. Could build pergola to support future addition of panels.
- The proposal is to decrease each travel lane by 3 feet so that the median will be three feet wider and the sidewalk on the commercial side will be three feet wider. Need to be sure that still allows enough room for fire trucks.
- Like the idea of a serpentine flow of the sidewalk in the middle.
- Raised areas for trees or benches should be compact enough that they won't inhibit pedestrian flow.
- Really like the pergola idea! Great way to create shade for seats underneath.
- Planters don't need to be rectangular. Could be different shapes.
- The planters in old town now are fine. Hopefully the plants will grow over them so you can't see much anyway. Consider adding different sizes.



Sidewalk along Laurel (not in median)

- Consider edging that matches the median
- Could be personalized by buying bricks or doing artwork
- Be sure the concrete and the brick (or other element) freeze at the same temperature so it's safer to walk than it is now.
- Make sure the surface is easy to clean and shovel. Some people use scrapers that destroy the bricks.
- Repeat serpentine effect of median on both sides of sidewalk.
- What is the unifying element?
- Keep/add concrete band where possible.
- General agreement on leaving brick where it is in good shape. Where it's not, sidewalk can be rebuilt using same bricks so it all matches.

Lighting

- It probably won't change along Laurel Ave, but some lighting may be added for safety near crosswalks.
- Considering lighted bollards at crosswalks.
- Residents didn't like the shape of this lighted bollard:



- Also, in some places, the lights are angled so that they blind drivers so they can't see who's in the crosswalk.

Bollards

- What color is good? Black goes with everything.
- Choose one that looks like a chess piece, not a plain column.
- Cast iron ones look nice all in a row.
- Are they expensive to install?
- Consider buying a few extras so they can be replaced if damaged.

Crosswalk Materials

Thermoplastic stamping

- Is it slippery?
- Does it come only in white?
- Like the circular pattern used on Clarendon Ave in Arlington.
- The straight brick pattern is nauseating.
- Could we design our own thermoplastic pattern?
- How well does this type of paint last?

- Clearly painted stripes would also be good, if well-maintained.



Stamped Concrete or other new surface

- Consider using an interesting pattern and color
- Make sure it doesn't add noise as cars go over them.
- May not be as visible at night.
- Could add thermoplastic lines to a concrete crosswalk to make it more visible.
- Anything is better than what we have!
- How about yellow brick?



Sidewalks in residential area

- Like the idea of concrete throughout but it shouldn't be the unifying element because it's not that attractive.
- Consider using a pressed element with color at the edges.
- Would like to see some more options.
- Could have intermittent brick edging or other material.
- Could tie in to retaining walls by using a similar material there.

Curb extensions

- Use a plant material in the residential area.
- Should be as organic as possible.
- Plant material needs to be low so kids can be seen by drivers.

- Direct people to cross at crosswalks by using plant material to discourage it elsewhere.
- Prefer stamped concrete to plain.
- Consider a meandering edge to the sidewalk.



Retaining walls in residential area

- Can we have brick?
- I think walls should be different. Individuals should be able to choose what they want.
- Form liner looks really good.
- Should have options – several colors and patterns to choose from.
- Will the surface add to noise level because it is such a hard surface? Could we consider using wood instead? Or adding more landscaping?

Bike area

- What color? Red, white, blue, green?



Written comments:

The pergola idea for Laurel Ave is problematic in that it seem to fit into the “River Walk” theme. There are already trees and benches as it is. Plus we must consider the added cost, both initially and as ongoing maintenance. Local merchants may raise concerns that a pergola will block out visual identification of their businesses.

- 1) Do the sharper (curb changes on the corner) turn allow for emerging vehicles, i.e. fire trucks to get through if a car is in the other lane?
- 2) Bollards should not bring more graffiti
- 3) Graffiti proofing in all places. We have problems here. Is there good flat paving material that can be used to put in sidewalk and around trees? Once they mature they are very

- valuable.
- 4) Pressed concrete or slate walkway or slate instead of brick on side of the sidewalk.
 - 5) Avoid pressed concrete or patterns that may create noise, especially at night in the residential area when cars can travel at high speeds. (talking about on the road crosswalks)

Put a pergola on Laurel Median
Place seating around trees

At Columbia and Carroll change shape of bump out on the west side of Columbia to make it sharper.

Walls-I prefer natural stone or something that resembles it
Plant materials –natives please for trees/shrubs at least
Organic shapes/forms where possible
I don't care for chains between bollards
Seating around trees on Laurel would be lovely
Please do explore the Pergola with vines idea
Laurel-serpentine is good
For the Farmer's Market-please maintain the amount of space they have-one way or another (could use creativity here)
"Street Print" Arlington, VA looks nice
Lighted bollards ok with me.
L shaped benches good
Quiet crosswalks please
Rough or uneven surfaced walls will reflect less sound (and be quieter for those who live across the street) than smooth surfaced walls.
Vary walls on individual properties.